

CALIFORNIA WATER PLAN UPDATE 2009
TRIBAL COMMUNICATION COMMITTEE
Highlights of September 12, 2008, Meeting in Sacramento

The tenth meeting of the Tribal Communication Committee (TCC) was held in Sacramento on September 12, 2008. The meeting's objectives were (1) to develop a workplan for the 2009 Tribal Water Summit, and (2) to discuss development of an invitation and fact sheet for Tribes to join the summit planning process.

Outstanding Business

The TCC debriefed the Floodplain Management Association (FMA) Annual Conference. The TCC had helped prepare for this session and both the morning and afternoon sessions were a success. Tribal interests were well represented and the turnout was especially rewarding, given the short notice. The FMA Executive Director, Iovanka Todt, would like to see that a Tribal session becomes a standing item for the FMA annual conference.

The group discussed continued outreach for the Tribal Water Stories effort, which will be included in Update 2009. Two TCC members volunteered to staff a section of the DWR booth at the Native American Indian Days event at the Capitol on September 26th. A letter will be distributed that describes the effort and invites Tribes to contribute stories. It was suggested that outreach be extended to Tribal language programs as well.

Review of Tribal Communication Plan Implementation Activities

Participants walked through the list of implementation action items, updated the status of many items, and discussed next steps for making progress.

Interim Evaluation

As a result of TCC efforts, Tribal participation has increased significantly across all Water Plan activities: Advisory Committee meetings, Regional Workshops, Resource Management Strategies. In moving towards the Summit, it was suggested that a one-page fact sheet be developed to describe the role and accomplishments of the TCC, and to show that the benefits for Tribes of being involved with the Water Plan.

Summit Charter and Workplan Development

The TCC members reviewed and commented on the Draft Charter and Workplan for the Summit Planning Team. A revised draft will be the focus of the next TCC meeting on October 10.

Office of Homeland Security – Tribal Emergency Preparedness and Planning

Denise Banker, Tribal Advocate for the Governor's Office of Homeland Security (OHS), joined the TCC meeting by phone. OHS is initiating a grant program to help Tribes create emergency preparedness and response plans. OHS is seeking advice and help from the TCC to communicate with Tribes. There may be opportunities for using OHS events to conduct pre-summit work.

Outstanding Business and Next Steps

The next TCC meeting will be Friday, October 10, from 12:30 to 4:30 PM, in Sacramento.